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January 18, 1961     DAvenport 1-1200
Cables STANMED

Professor U. S. v. Euler, Chairman
The Nobel-Committee for Physiology or Medicine
The Nobel-Committee of the Royal Caroline Institute
Stockholm, Sweden

Dear Professor von Euler:

I have the honor to nominate <u>Dr. Alfred D. Hershey</u> for the Nobel Prize
in Physiology or Medicine for 1961.

In seeking the names of worthy candidates your correspondents will
undoubtedly strive to find those workers whose efforts have not merely been
blessed with gratuitous fortune, but whose significant discoveries are the
expressions of a unique zeal for the acquisition of truth and an accompanying
faculty for the pursuit of scientific methods. One measure of these qualifi-
cations is a consistent record of admirable work in which is included even
a number of outstanding contributions.

By these criteria, Alfred D. Hershey is an outstanding candidate. Since
1946 he has been the steady source of a number of significant contributions
which have played a central role in the growth of molecular biology. To the
present time, his work has been of the highest integrity, and his current
delicate studies on the isolation of nucleic acids in their native form are
as good an example of technique and judgment as can be found. To single out
specific contributions of prize-worthy note

(1) The demonstration of genetic recombination in bacteriophage is
the essential foundation of the most penetrating work in molecular genetics.
He is responsible not only for the bare discovery but for characterizing
many of the important details of the recombination mechanism.

(2) The analysis of infection by phage and the discovery that only
the DNA component was necessary for the infection to proceed within the host
cell. This discovery ended the era of abstract discussion of the mysterious
"latent period" in virus infection and has translated studies on bacterial
viruses from statistical deduction to chemical analysis.

**Professor U. S. v. Euler, cont. 2.**          January 16, 1961

In my own opinion, the importance, integrity and meticulousness of Hershey's work would warrant the unique award of a prize in 1961.  However, I would not wish to prejudice this recognition by precluding the dividing of the prize for 1961 with other prize-worthy work in related fields.

With cordial regards,

Respectfully,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics
Prix Nobel, 1958.